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Examiner Reichle (Art Unit 3761)	Unites States Patent and Trademark Office	571-273-4936	571-272-4936
From:	Tomoki Tanida	Direct Phone:	202.756.8196
E-Mail:	ttanida@mwe.com	Direct Fax:	202.756.8087
Sent By:		Direct Phone:	
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		Number of Pages, Including Cover:	11

Re: Personal Interview regarding U.S. Patent Application No. 10/030,249
(May 9, 2010 at 10:00am)

Message:

Dear Examiner Reichle,

Thank you for your approval of the interview. Attached please find an additional interview agenda.

Please let me know which building I can meet you on May 19, 2010 at 10:00am.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

Tomoki Tanida

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Attachments: Figs. 1, 12, 13, 18, and 19

Additional Agenda

Objections to the Drawings

Please see attached Figs. 1, 12, 13, 18, and 19.

We will explain numerals B22 in Fig. 12, which we believe refer to correct portions.

Objections to the Description

1. Paragraphs [02]-[04]: please see the following amendments.

[02] ~~In these days, various~~ Various types of disposable diapers have been well known developed.

[03] One of examples of disposable diapers is disclosed in Japanese Patent Publication No. 94-93901. This publication pertains to ~~an absorbent article~~ a disposable diaper having a dual barrier system which can avoid side leakage ~~[[with]]~~ using a standing cuff and a gasketing cuff.

[04] ~~However, according to the inventors' study, even though the standing cuff and the gasketing cuff are used in the dual barrier system, the side leakage cannot properly be avoided a barrier effect to avoid the side leakage is limited despite the dual barrier system, and it is found that much higher barrier effect can be obtained by utilizing a structurally considered standing cuff without the gasketing cuff.~~

2. The Summary of the Invention

We will amend this section when the claimed subject matter is indicated to be allowable.

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3. Free edge (distal edge) and Free portion

These two terms are distinguishable from each other in light of the specification and drawings. Please see, e.g., Figs. 5 and 6A showing distal portion Z and distal edge E1.

4. Stretching member 60

Please see proposed amendments to paragraph [0158] and claim 54:

[158] In the embodiment shown in Figs. 14, 15 and 17, the stretching members 60 for lifting are respectively disposed between the liquid impervious back sheet 12 and the absorbent structure AB. Further, in a plane view, as shown in Fig. 13, in each leg portion of the diaper, the stretching member 60 for lifting is not superposed on the narrow portion of the absorbent core 13, while in front end and back end of the diaper, it is superposed on the laterally extended portions of the absorbent core 13. In other words, the stretching member 60 is not superposed on the narrowest width portion of the absorbent core 13, while the member is superposed on the widest width portion of the core.

54. (Currently Amended) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 53, wherein

said absorbent core has a hourglass-like shape having a wide width portion and a narrow width portion by constricting both side portions of the absorbent core so that the constricted side portions respectively encircle the wearer's legs, and

said stretching members disposed between said liquid impervious sheet and said absorbent structure are arranged to overlap with said the [[wide]] widest width portion, but not to overlap with the narrow narrowest width portion.

Objections to the Claims

1. Missing words in claims 26, lines 12 and 32

Please let us know why you believe that there are missing words.

2. Claims 28, lines 3 and 4

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There are no redundant limitations in the claims. We will explain this in the interview.

3. Claim 48

We will amend the claim as follows:

48. (Currently Amended) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein [[said]] the folding back portion of the folded free portion of the standing sheet is located outside of an area over said absorbent core.

4. Claim 48

We will amend the claim as follows:

49. (Currently Amended) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein

a back sheet is disposed on a back-side of said liquid impervious sheet,

said liquid impervious sheet has a width greater than that of said absorbent structure so that said liquid impervious sheet has laterally extended portions extending beyond said respective opposite sides of said absorbent structure, the laterally extended portions of the liquid impervious sheet being fixed to those of the liquid pervious sheet, respectively, and

said proximal edge of the standing sheet is fixed to corresponding one of the laterally extended portions of said liquid impervious sheet and the corresponding one of the laterally extended portions of said liquid pervious sheet.

With respect to the Examiner's indication that '[a]lso again lines 6 et seq, i.e., fixed to...', please let us know a correct line of the claim so that we can correct the claim if necessary.

5. Claim 54

The Office Action indicates that "should 'by constricting ... constricted side portions' be -- including side portions of the absorbent core which -- (Note also discussion in paragraph 7 supra)?" We would appreciate it if you give us more detailed explanation of this issue.

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Section 112, Second Paragraph, Rejection**1. Claim 26****1-1. Antecedent basis for "the standing sheet"**

We believe that there is no antecedent basis issue for this limitation because it refers to "a standing sheet" in line 7 of claim 26. Persons skilled in the art can understand what standing sheet is discussed in line 12 of the claim.

1-2. "free edge"

We believe that persons skilled in the art would understand the meaning of this term.

2. Claim 28: antecedent basis for "the standing portion..." and "the surface contacting portion..."

The limitations refer to "a standing portion" and "a surface contacting portion" in line 17 of claim 26.

3. Claim 38: there are limitations inconsistent with each other.

We will cancel claim 38.

4. Claim 48

We will amend the claim as follows:

48. (Currently Amended) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein said the folding back portion of the folded free portion of the standing sheet is located outside of an area over said absorbent core.

Claim 51

We will amend the claim as follows:

51. (Currently Amended) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein each of said

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stretching members includes first stretching members arranged in the vicinity of said free edge of said surface-contacting portion [[has]], the first stretching members having 400 d to 640 d and a contraction percentage of 160% to 300%, and each of said second stretching members arranged in said standing portion[[has]], the second stretching members having 640 d to 2100 d and a contraction percentage of 150% to 250%.

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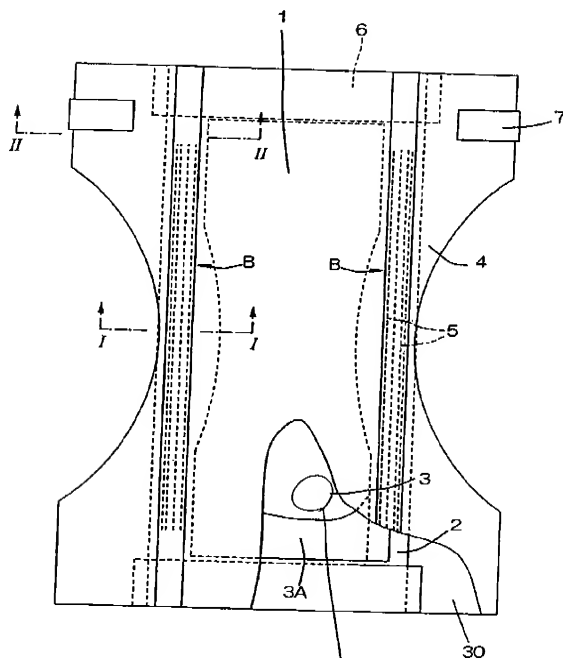
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Fig. 1

*deleted*

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Fig. 13

